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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Comments on Uranium Ore

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4-page report

on the subject of uranium deposits in Czechoslovakia and related topics.

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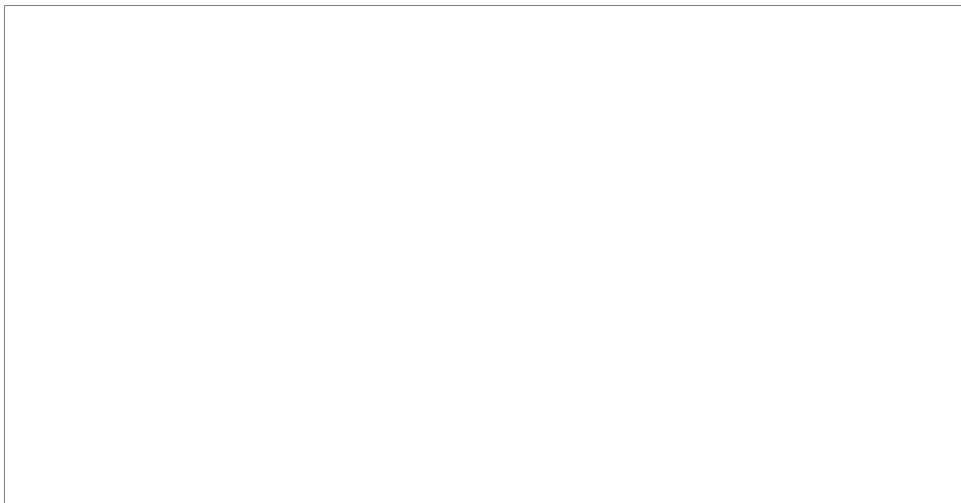
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COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia

29 November 1957

SUBJECT: Comments on Uranium Ore
in Czechoslovakia

PAGES: 4



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1. Uranium, uraninite (UO_2), and its derivatives occurred in ore mines in the Jachymov area; the veins were of hydrothermal origin. There were mica slates southeast of Johanngeorgenstadt which, on the north side, were covered with Cambrian slates. The Cambrian slates were composed of phyllitic graphite mica slates. Ore veins developed in the Cambrian slates; they had north-east and north-south directions. They were called "midnight" veins. A second group of veins had east-west and east-south directions. They were called "morning" veins. Both groups had declines from 50 to 80 degrees and thicknesses which varied from 0.1 to 0.7 meters. The "midnight" veins contained a better quality of ore than the "morning" veins. The veins contained silver ores which were located near the surface. Beneath the silver ores were cobalt, arsenic, nickel, and bismuth. Uranium ores were located below these ores. (See Figure 1 on page 4 for the scheme of the ore veins.) Ores were richer at points where veins crossed or joined. The silver ores were mined as early as the 15th and 16th Centuries. Uranium ores were dispersed very unevenly in the veins. There were approximately six uranium mines in operation in the Jachymov area.

the ore reserves were not of great significance.

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2. Uranium was also mined in the area south of Marianske Lazne. This area contained lenses of uranium and copper ores as well as graphite beds.

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3. The second most important area for the mining of uranium was in the vicinity of Pribram. The veins were of the same composition as those in the Jachymov area. There were three mines in this area -- Anna, Prokop, and Ferdinand. Approximately another five mines were located about six kilometers south of Pribram; uranium mining was recently begun here. Another shaft of large diameter was in the process of being sunk in this area in 1956. [redacted]
[redacted] this would be the central mine for the area.
4. Another uranium bed was found in the area of Havlickuv Brod (N 49-37, E 15-35). Still another uranium bed was found in the area of Hermanicky and Sedlec in southern Bohemia. It was believed that the ore veins extended toward the west. Extensive work was begun in the area during 1956; however, only two of the original ten mining centers remain and no work was done west of the area. [redacted] results indicated that these mines were of much less importance than had been originally believed.
5. Still another uranium bed was found in the area of Radvanice near Zacler (N 50-39, E 15-54) in northern Bohemia; the uranium was found in black coal layers. It was also known that Snezka Peak in the Krkonose Mountains contained uranium granite. Uranium was also found in Huta near Spisska Nova Ves. Extensive work had been in progress near Huta and toward Hnilcik (N 48-53, E 20-34); however, in 1956 most of the work was discontinued. Work was in progress in only one place; greenish uranium ores were allegedly mined there. Very poor uranium ore was discovered south of Jelsava, Slovakia; however, this ore did not meet the minimum stipulated uranium requirement.¹
6. Radioactive springs occurred frequently in Czechoslovakia; they were found mainly in the areas of Jachymov, Frantiskovy Lazne (N 50-07, E 12-22), and the Jizerske and Orlicke Mountains. Mineral springs occurred frequently in Slovakia as well; however, [redacted] the springs were not radioactive. This was especially true of the springs in the area of Sliac (N 48-37, E 19-11). [redacted] there were no important uranium beds in Slovakia.
7. Originally, in the organizational setup after World War II, uranium mines belonged to the General Management of Czechoslovak Mines. Later, however, [redacted] at approximately the time the Ministry of Fuels and Power was created, uranium mines were made independent and, [redacted] uranium ore mines were not subordinate to the Ministry of Ore Mines and Foundries. [redacted] the Management of Uranium Mines was in Jachymov and [redacted] there was a branch office in Pribram. [redacted] the Management of Uranium Mines was directly subordinate to the Ministers' Council.

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1. Comment: [redacted] about six years ago
the minimum uranium content required was 0.05 percent;
however, [redacted] this minimum was later lowered.

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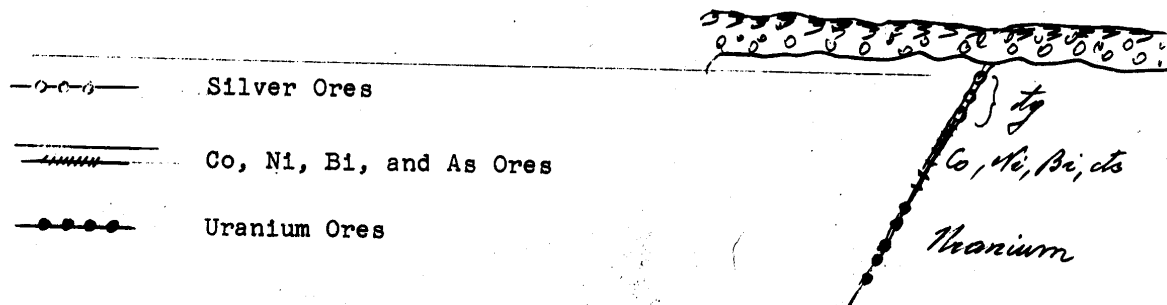
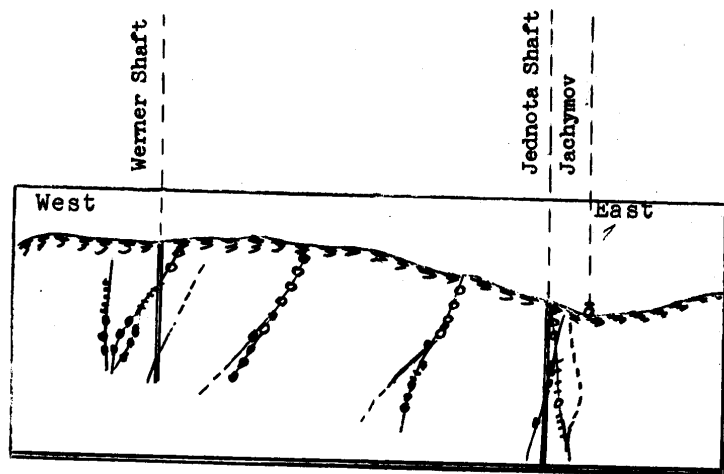
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Figure 1



Profile of the Jachymov Ore Bed and Composition
of the Veins



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